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RUTHERFORD COUNTY,
—ITS—
ESTABLISHMENT, EARLY HISTORY,
TOPOGRAPHY, SOIL, PRODUCTS
AND OTHER RESOURCES.

In colonial times the tract of country now known as Rutherford County, North Carolina, was embraced in the territory then known as Tryon County, so called in honor of William Tryon, who was the royal Governor of North Carolina from 1765 to 1771.

In 1779 the territory of Tryon County was divided and Lincoln and Rutherford established therefrom. Since that time parts of Rutherford have been cut off to Buncombe, Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, Polk and Henderson counties and thus it has been reduced to its present size.

Rutherford County now extends from the Cleveland line on the East to the Henderson line on the West, a distance of over thirty miles, and from the South Carolina and Polk County lines on the South to the McDowell and Burke lines on the North, at some points a distance of twenty-five miles, and an average breadth of over fourteen miles.

The County embraces about five hundred square miles, an acreage of over three hundred thousand acres of land. Of this amount about eighty thousand acres are under cultivation, leaving over two hundred and thirty thousand acres un-

improved, thus offering a large field for new settlers who can find pleasant and profitable business rapidly opening here for them.

POPULATION.

The population of the County is about sixteen thousand five hundred (16,500.) Nearly thirteen thousand white and about three thousand five hundred colored.

Nearly the entire population are natives of North Carolina and are steady, honest, upright, well-to-do people. They are wanting in some of the qualifications that are essential to the rapid development of a country, to wit: that "snap" and energy that characterize the new settlements of the West. The people are fairly intelligent and are noted for their hospitality and integrity and with the Railroads and the "push" that will naturally come with them together with the influx of enterprising men that we expect and the influence of capital and business, no country can boast of a better people. While the population has increased in fair proportion with other counties we look for still more rapid growth.

RAIL ROADS.

Up to the present year we have not known the advantages of a Railroad but the wealth and products of the County have been carried away and the County drained to enrich her more fortunate sisters, but within the past year the Charleston, Cincinnati and Chicago Railroad a new corporation has begun to develop this section and in the *near future* we will have ample Railroad facilities. The Massachusetts and Southern Construction Company which has charge of the construction of the line has been for twelve months at work constructing that part of the road between the Air Line Road at Black's in South Carolina and Rutherfordton and have the road ready for the iron which is now being laid so that in a very few weeks it will be completed between these two points. This Railroad is a scheme well worthy the best Railroad talent in the land. It is projected to run

from Charleston, S. C., to Cincinnati and Chicago. If the reader will take the map and glance at the line beginning at Charleston thence Northwest through the centre of the State crossing the Charlotte and Atlanta Air Line between Spartanburg and Charlotte, thence to Shelby, Rutherfordton and Marion and thence crossing the Blue Ridge (without a tunnel), and through Mitchell County into Tennessee and through Kentucky it will readily be seen that an immense territory of wonderfully valuable resources is to be developed by the enterprise, and giving this county, at one stroke, communication in every direction. This Railroad will be completed to Rutherfordton during the present year, 1886, and put in running trim.

The Carolina Central Railroad running from the sea coast at Wilmington almost entirely through the State is also rapidly extending its line to Rutherfordton, and will run its trains to Rutherfordton during the present year, (1886.)

The two Railroads above mentioned are fixed facts and there is talk of others, but we are only dealing with facts as they now exist.

TOWNS.

There are a number of small Towns in this County but the only incorporated towns are Rutherfordton and Forest City.

RUTHERFORDTON.

The County seat is situated among the hills about fifteen miles East of the foot of the Blue Ridge. It is strictly a town among the hills, not large hills, but hills sufficient to furnish a natural drainage and make it one of the healthiest places on earth. The location is a splendid one for a thriving town. As now located it is perfectly surrounded with beautifully elevated building sites, such sites as will ere long be the pride of the place.

Until recently the Town has had no hope of a Railroad and the citizens have not felt much stimulus to improve what a bounteous Providence has lavished upon them but

now they feel that inspiration that comes with steam and lightening and are looking at the real advantages and facilities that surround them and what has heretofore appeared to be insurmountable difficulties now begin to look as if it might not only be easily overcome but turned to advantage —heretofore while all our locomotion and transportation was by horse-power and nothing to bring capital and enterprise to us a town located among hills stood a poor chance to have its streets and surrounding eminences beautified and improved, but now it is easy to see that the location of the Town is an exceedingly fortunate one if the necessary steps are taken to make it what it ought to be.

The facilities for furnishing water are unsurpassed. There is a good spring of Chalybeate water immediately in the Town. The climate is all that could be desired. The water is fine. The Town has four good church edifices, a splendid school, good hotels and boarding houses, elegant scenery, with two Railroads just being completed, with a splendidly productive section to sustain it, bright prospects before it. With all these advantages it is destined to become one of the principal towns of Western North Carolina, both as a business place and a health resort.

There is an abundance of unimproved land and lots for sale at reasonable prices and an earnest invitation to home-seekers to come and see us and live among us.

Distance from Rutherfordton

To Asheville.....	40	miles.
“ Morganton.....	35	“
“ Marion.....	26	“
“ Shelby	24	“
“ Chimney Rock.....	17	“
“ Hendersonville.....	32	“
“ Spartanburg	30	“
“ Columbus.....	20	“
“ Tryon City	25	“
“ Black Mountain.....	40	“
“ Bald Mountain.....	18	“

FOREST CITY

is a thriving town six miles East of Rutherfordton on the lines of Railroad. It is located on a narrow level ridge with good drainage and good natural advantages. It is populated by good substantial citizens and promises fair to be a town of note. It has a fine school and good churches. The morals of the Town are good. Good hotels and boarding houses, a number of stores and other places of business, splendid water and climate. A healthy Town and an invitation to outsiders to come and share its blessings. Plenty of fine building lots for sale.

THE PRODUCTS OF THE COUNTY.

There is probably no County in the State, the products of which are more varied and abundant. The Southern and Eastern portions are well adapted to the growth of cotton, while the whole County produces in abundance—corn, wheat, oats, rye, potatoes, tobacco, cabbage, sorghum, clover, grass, peas, beans, garden vegetables and fruits of all kinds.

THE LANDS.

As will be seen at the beginning of this article there are plenty of unimproved lands in this County to accommodate a population four times as great as the present population. Just think of it! Over two hundred thousand acres of unimproved lands. The lands in Rutherford County are of every imaginable description, from the deep soil of the river low-lands to the steep mountain side.

The entire County is abundantly watered and along the streams can be found the most fertile lands in all the State. On first Broad River and its tributaries—second Broad now and its tributaries, Cane Creek, Camp Creek, Cove Creek, Cedar Creek, Robertson's Creek, Cathey's Creek, Bill's Creek, Buffalo, Mountain Creek, Main Broad River, Floyd's Creek and a large number of other streams can be found abundance of the finest quality of land, as rich and productive as any in the State, while on the ridges and hillsides in the Eastern and Southern parts of the County the fine cot-

ton lands are almost as valuable, and the uplands of the Northern and Western parts of the County so well adapted to tobacco raising, afford fine opportunities for persons looking for homes.

The character of the soil is fully described in a communication from W. L. Twitty, Esq., published herein.

TOWNSHIP DIVISIONS OF THE COUNTY.

There are thirteen Townships in the County.

RUTHERFORDTON TOWNSHIP includes the Town of Rutherfordton and two or three miles from the Court House in every direction. The lands of this Township are about an average of the quality throughout the County. In this Township, and about three miles from Rutherfordton, is the hill on which Furgeson camped *en route* to King's Mountain where he met his defeat and death, and the house where died the wounded Major Dunlap of revolutionary history.

GREEN HILL TOWNSHIP lies North and West of Rutherfordton. This Township contains much fine lands and timber. A reliable citizen informs us that during the present year he cut four tons of hay from six square rods of land. In this Township is a wonderful Mineral Spring which has proven very beneficial in serofula and cutaneous affections.

UNION TOWNSHIP is small in territory but rich in soil and timber. Some very fine cotton and tobacco lands are still unimproved, and much fine land in cultivation.

SULPHUR SPRINGS TOWNSHIP is well adapted to the growth of tobacco, cotton and grains, and has any quantity of fine timber and some elegant water-powers.

In this Township, about ten miles from Rutherfordton, and about four miles from the line of Railroad, is a very fine Spring of White Sulphur Water.

HIGH SHOALS TOWNSHIP—This Township has probably as fine land as any in the County and the most extensive water-power. The famous High Shoals on second Broad River furnishes sufficient power to run immense machinery.

COLFAX TOWNSHIP lies next the Cleveland County line

and is a fine cotton section. The lands are well watered and fertile—farmers can make money.

COOL SPRINGS TOWNSHIP is also rich and well adapted to cotton raising. The lands are well watered. Forest City is in this Township.

DUNCAN'S CREEK TOWNSHIP is undulating. The lands compare favorably with the lands of other Townships, well adapted to the growth of wheat, corn and tobacco.

GOLDEN VALLEY TOWNSHIP has rich lands, fine timber and is rich in gold and other mineral deposits.

LOGAN'S STORE TOWNSHIP is well timbered, well watered and has much fine lands, well adapted to grain, cotton and tobacco. It has also gold and other valuable mineral deposits.

CAMP CREEK TOWNSHIP, has much fine lands—is undulating. The lands are all well adapted to the growth of grains and tobacco, some cotton grown. Gold and other minerals abound.

MORGAN TOWNSHIP lies next the McDowell County line, and abounds with fine timber. The lands are well watered and fertile. The water pure and air bracing. Fine water-power and some mineral.

CHIMNEY Rock, while it has fine farming lands in abundance, is noted for its beautiful mountain scenery, pure air and water and fine timbers. The famous Chimney Rock, the Waterfall, the Pools, Bald Mountain and many other places of popular resort are in this Township.

Each of the thirteen Townships are well timbered and well watered. The stock-law is in full force in part of the County, thus preserving the valuable timber and directing attention to the improvement of all kind of stock.

RESOURCES.

To the citizen of Rutherford County who feels a love for his country and a glow of warm affection for his fellow-man, the task of writing up the resources of this wonderful County resolves itself into a pleasure, and the only fear to be felt is that want of space will make him unable to dwell with

sufficient power on her varied and extensive products.

Following the course of nature we will take up the material and substantial benefits offered to the settler in this county and follow with an account of the delights and enjoyments a residence in Rutherford county will bestow on the fortunate possessor.

LAND.—Land in this county is cheap, very cheap. Improved land can be bought at from \$3 to \$50 per acre, the last price being that asked for alluvial land, the celebrated inexhaustible bottom land on the numerous rivers and creeks. In quality, the land of course varies from very rich to poor, but we have no land so poor that the owner may not achieve a competence by dint of moderate industry and economy, for the vegetable productions of this country are so varied and so many that with the exercise of observation and judgment a settler may so adapt his crop to the requirements of his land that his reward will be either bountiful or scanty as his industry or his lack of that quality prevails in his life, here, however, the laziest of mortals can hardly fail to make a living, and that fact, at present, is a great bar to our advancement, for the class of laborers we have here, is one that is content with a bare subsistence and nothing will hardly induce any effort for anything further: hence the need of those who desire more than the mere necessities of life, and hence also our welcome to those who come here desirous of increasing in worldly prosperity.

PRODUCTS:—Of products of the vegetable kingdom the mere list of those indigenous would fill a large portion of our space without leaving any chance to describe them; and of cultivated products we must just bunch it, and say, and that without the slightest exaggeration, that we have here all products but those that are strictly tropical.

Herewith is a partial list of indigenous and cultivated products. Trees Oak: black, white, red, Spanish, water, chestnut—Hickory, two kinds. Ash, white and red. Persimmon; Dogwood; Walnut; Poplar; Maple, curly and common; Beech; Birch; Cedar; Alder; Locust; Pine, two

kinds; Laurel. Other products, indigenous: Berries: Black Whortleberry in vast quantities, Sugar, Dew berries, Haws, both black and red, elder; Nuts, Chestnut, Hickory, Hazel, Walnut, Chineapin, Herbs. Plants, Boneset, Ditany, Colewort, Ratsbane, Blood-root, Pleurisy or Butterfly-weed, Elecampane, Virginia Snake-root, Sarsaparilla, Sassafras, Bay, Ground Ivy, Rattle-snake-weed, Two-o'clock. As has been stated this is but a partial list, and is also a very imperfect one, as on account of the limited time and space allowed in getting up this article such products can only be mentioned as are most obvious to the sight, and as the work is for popular use, only the common names are used. But perhaps, in the near future a hand-book of the resources of this admirable country will be prepared and then we can give in full a view, while now we can only give the reader a glance at the remarkable richness and fertility of this Heaven-blessed land. Of mineral products we have quarries of several kinds of building stones, as Granite, red and brown Sandstones, Syenite, and of Minerals. Dana the accepted authority on such matters gives the following: Gold, Graphite, Bismuthic Gold, Diamond, Euclase, Pseudomorphous Quart, Chaledony, Corundum, Epidote, Pyrope, Bookite, Zircon, Monazite, Rutherfordite, Samarskite, Mort Crystals, Itacolumyte, Cyanite. Now here is an array of minerals sufficient to draw the lover of wealth to our County, and when a proper cabinet of these minerals is set up, mineralogical students and tourists will be drawn here from all parts, for these minerals are not scarce here.

In regard to the gold, gold hunting does not seem to be much of a pastime in this County, notwithstanding the fact that rich mines have been discovered and worked with success.

In regard to the diamond, it may be very common, but the frequent appearance of this brilliant and beautiful Quartz Crystal, has the effect of causing a distrust in the mind of the ordinary observer in regard to the bright stones he may see.

Having thus given a very imperfect and incomplete list of natural products we will venture some remarks on the reasons for our lack of modern improvements.

Previous to the war nearly all our citizens were slave owners, and improvements were not needed, at least the need for them was not felt, for it was felt to be superfluous to do anything that able and willing slaves could accomplish. With the close of the war every vestige of this wealth was swept away, and the country being agricultural, it was of course left bankrupt. True the land was left, but land without laborers was only worth a bare subsistence; the work performed in the North by labor-saving appliances, had here been done by the slave, and with freedom and a change in the relations of master and servant and no machinery the South of necessity had to begin anew in many respects.—With these drawbacks there was still another one, the lack of means of transportation, the products of the country could find no market, hence what sufficed for home use was all that there was any incentive to raise. No wonder that with all the bounties of nature lying at our feet our people were poor. Those who have lived all their lives where transportation is easy do not appreciate the difficulties that beset those who live far from the locomotive and steamboat. And our advice to those who live out of the reach of those civilizers of man, is this: If any opportunity is ever offered you to secure one of these, secure it at once at any price, you will never regret it.

And now perhaps it would be fitting that we describe some of the articles here mentioned. In regard to the timber we have of the White Oak trees that will measure twelve to fourteen feet in circumference and sixty feet to the first limbs, sound to the heart; Walnuts of the same size, sixty or seventy to the acre, and the imperishable Post Oak also of gigantic size. The weeping willow and also the basket willow, fringe our rivers, the Sassafras tree, valuable for its oil is also plentiful, and as for grapes, this county might rival Eschol of Scriptural fame. The Sumac valuable to

the dyer and tanner here grows in profusion, and the Bay tree valuable for the oil of wintergreen is found on all our mountains.

That there are wonderful possibilities in our County for the settler of thrift and enterprise we will cite the case of a Scotch gentleman Mr. Frank Reynolds who came to this County some eight years ago with but little money, but with the thrift and enterprise that distinguish his race. At the start in this County he worked for wages, but his keen eyes saw the many roads open to wealth and he quickly embarked in business for himself, and his business qualifications and enterprise have placed him in the enviable possession of one of the largest tanneries in the South shipping weekly some two thousand pounds of leather. Mr. Reynolds has also devoted himself to fruit-culture, and a few nights since he showed the writer of this two beautiful Belle Pears luscious and delicious, one weighing one pound and the other weighing fourteen ounces. This example is sufficient to show what the chance is for the new comer who has the brains and energy, but is handicapped on the start at home, by reason of the crowded state of the country in which he lives.

We are a hospitable people here; we have a welcome, and a hearty one, for all who come here desirous of improving their fortunes by honest and honorable means. Crimes are very few in our midst. Our morals are very good, our contributions, as compared to our means, for intellectual and charitable purposes are remarkable, and our social proclivities and kindly feelings and attentions to strangers have evoked warm encomiums from the Northern visitors who are each year becoming more numerous. The writer of this portion of this article could descant on the healthfulness of this country, its numerous pure, clear water springs, medicinal and mineral springs, but will leave that to be treated of by a gentleman of eminence in the medical profession and who is familiar with these matters.

LETTER FROM DR. OLIVER HICKS.

An elaborately written health history of Rutherfordton and the adjacent country would embrace its topography, &c., climatology, and as the paper is for the general public it is believed best to avoid that which is technical and theoretical, so far as is consistent with simple expression of facts.

Having been engaged in the practice of medicine almost uninterruptedly for the last twenty years in all parts of Rutherford County, my opportunities for investigating the causes and observing the character of disease, as seen and treated here have been simple, and many circumstances connected with symptomatology, and treatment have led to more than ordinary scrutiny, and close investigation in regard to physical conditions influencing the course, types, results, and terminations of disease.

The County of Rutherford, North Carolina, is sheltered on the North and Northeast by South Mountain range, on the West and Northwest by the Blue Ridge, and on the South and Southwest by Tryon Mountains. Four large, rapid rivers have their sources and flow through this immense mountain cove. There are many large creeks and numberless smaller creeks and branches of the purest water, upon these streams are a great many unused shoals of easy access, and suitable for almost every conceivable kind of manufacturing. There is also on these streams a large proportion of the best bottom lands, (alluvial) which produces abundant crops, although existing modes of cultivation and implements used are of the most primitive kinds. There are many thousand acres of primeval forests, contiguous to the streams, in which abounds the finest grades and varieties of hard woods. The white hickory, white oak, post oak, dogwood, sour-wood, beech, maple, persimon, birch, &c., are plentiful, very little of which has been used for other than domestic purposes. Near the mountains and up their sides there is a great deal of black walnut, wild locust, mountain birch, &c., in many localities wild cherry. Experienced lumbermen say

the heart pine of this County is equal to the best, in quality and quantity.

Our climate is simply delightful. The atmosphere is clear light, lastic and dry as that of Denver, Col., in Winter and Spring and free from dust in Summer and Autumn. We have a temperature as eqable as is known so great a distant from the equator. For persons who have chronic pulmonary disease or who inherit predisposition to tubercular phthisis, these conditions are favorable in the highest degree.

The earth's surface is rolling. There are no swamps and no stagnated water here, marsh miasm does not exist, and only in instances of gross negligence do heaps of debris accumulate.

For several years succeeding 1873, certain families in different sections of the County were affected by a continued fever which usually assumed a typhoid character during its course. In some instances typhoid symptoms were observable from the inception of the disease. These fevers ran a comparatively wild course and the patients recovered under the use of appropriate means. I noticed quite a difference in grade, in persons who were well clad accustomed to wholesome articles of diet, and those who were poorly clad and used the most inferior articles of diet, and who gave but little attention to personal cleanliness and other rules of health. In the former the type of the disease was sthenic; in the latter I saw a few cases very nearly approaching typhus.

Local cause for the prevalence of the disease was pointed out in each neighborhood. Such as inattention to drainage, uncleansed cellars, heaps of decomposing debris and especially accumulations of animal excretions being allowed to inoulder and exhale their noxious gases, near sleeping apartments.

Epidemics are exceedingly rare and are usually limited to circumscirbed sections. Of course some of the exanthemata make their visits here, as they do wherever human beings live, but generally in such mild form that the good wife with

her armamentarium of "oil, turpentine, camphor, and root and herb teas," usually sees a favorable termination, particularly in measles and roseola.

I have seen cases of scarlatina that demanded most prompt and vigorous treatment, through that dread scourge of infancy and childhood, "Scarlatina maligna" is seldom met with, and then only in children of previously impaired and very delicate constitutions.

I have seen but very few cases of diphtheria since I came to the County in 1864, though I have on several occasions been called in haste to attend little patients with acute disease of the throat supposed to be diphtheria. With very few exceptions the disease proved to be malignant scarlet fever, which had attacked with especial violence, tissues of the throat and mouth—(Scarlatina anginosum.) There has not been a case of small pox in the County since my residence here.

A vast majority of all cases of disease I have treated were either of catarrhal origin, or could be attributed to imprudence in diet and exercise, and could have been easily prevented by an observance of the simplest hygienic rules. At all events the attacks could have been greatly modified, and often spells of weeks duration might have been only indispositions of a few days.

In most instances attacks among children are ephemeral, occasional attacks of dysentery (Sporadic) diarrhea incident to dentition in Summer and catarrhal affections in Winter is very nearly the record of diseases of infancy and childhood, barring contagious exanthemata. Violent attacks of cholera infantum, is the exception, not the rule.

Persons who have delicate lungs, or those who inherit predisposition to tubercular phthisis do exceedingly well in this Sheltered Mountain Cove. Lying as it does up on the Southern and Eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge and South-mountain ranges, the surface receives the earliest rays of the morning sun, which warms and dries the air at an hour when the ground is still shaded by mountains in other and

less favored localities. The currents of cold, humid air, so injurious to delicate lungs are broken up, and thrown above us by the high mountains surrounding us on the East and North-east, West, North-west and South-west. I have mentioned but a small proportion of the physical conditions existing here that are known to be beneficial to consumptives. There is as much here to contribute to the welfare of that class of invalids, as can be found elsewhere, and as little to detract from it. Nothing can impare my faith in the opinion that there exists here, combined physical conditions, which antagonize the development and progress of tubercular phthisis, and which influence it most favorably after it has developed. When I see children and grand-children of ancestors who died of tubercular disease, in good health, without an indication of the tubercular diathesis; all argument to disprove the belief, fall like flakes of snow on the ocean's wave. Fascinating theory and the subtleties of logic yield in the face of facts so stern.

Jerusalem's hills is part of her history. The boast of mighty Rome is and has been her seven hills, and the pride of beautiful Richmond is her hills. Rutherford can boast of her hundred hills. Located as it is upon the head waters of Gleighorn creek and among the foot hills of the Blue Ridge mountains, a more beautiful site, or one possessing more advantages in many points of view cannot be found. Four large branches run into the town, and uniting make Gleighorn Creek. The surface is rolling and slopes in pretty grades to the banks of the streams, so that it is impossible for debris to accumulate. With a little attention to drainage, brisk rains act as effectual scavengers and insures the water of our springs and wells against contamination. There are hundreds of beautiful and romantic building sites within view of the town and near the corporate limits, that are susceptible to the highest improvement in the way of landscape gardening, terracing, &c. Most of the hills about Rutherfordton are well wooded; the soil is good and produces well. From the crests of these hills the view of South Mountains,

the Blue Ridge and Tryon Mountain is sublime beyond the power of expression.

To those who wish to seek new homes, I beg leave to say that the country in and around Rutherfordton possesses vast resources yet untouched. Lands are very cheap and can be bought on easy terms.

OLIVER HICKS, M. D.

SCENERY SPRINGS, &c.

The scenery of Rutherford County is one of the chief sources of her pride; she may well boast of the varied and valuable quality of her soil, of the gigantic trees of various kinds that make her of advantage to the lumbermen, of the water power that cheers the face of the machinist and quickens the pace of enterprise, but all these also add to her beauty. While one may sell her timber, another her land another establish factories and machinery, yet respectively and combined they add to the charms spread out for the tourist and authorize us to invite the lover of natural beauty to sojourn with us.

Situated at the Eastern base of the Blue Ridge including several spurs of that grand chain, her location is different and perhaps more interesting than any of her sister counties.

Stopping for the night at Rutherfordton, the county seat, the traveler cannot fail to be struck with the peculiar beauties of the situation. Even the rising and setting of the sun impress us. The view toward the East is over hills at first steep and sharp then round and smoother, then gradually receding into the flat lands miles and miles away where the long leaf pine takes the place of the oak and poplar, forest pine and hickory. Over these the slanting rays of the rising sun cast a glorious beauty until they touch and gild the distant mountain sides. At evening the setting of the sun seems hastened and the twilight prolonged by the mountains West of us. Space would not justify us in particularizing, but we may add a brief discription of a few of the striking features in our scenery.

The "Cherry Mountain," so called from the fine quality and abundance of the fruit grown there, is in the North-eastern portion of Rutherford County, and affords a view of Cleveland and Burke Counties in the foreground and Lincoln and Mecklinburg and portions of South Carolina and the blue summit of King's Mountain in the back ground while the South Mountains stand as a rear guard to the North.

The streams are, with one or two exceptions, clear as crystal—and many brooks burst forth boldly from springs cooling and sweet that far surpass the water coolers and ice casks about hotels.

One mile West of Rutherfordton on the Hickory Nut Road a view of the mountains in the distance that is unsurpassed may be had. Southwest of us clear and distinct fourteen miles away the Whiteoak Mountains and two miles farther the Tryon slumber in their majesty. Farther West the Sugar Loaf, Bear Wallow and Bald Mountains lift their heads toward the sky, and above all Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak in North Carolina and indeed East of the Rocky Mountains adds its shadow to the already gloomy grandeur of the scene.

When we draw nearer, the varied beauty and curiosity of the landscape increases; and in our immediate borders we find the noted Chimney Rock, standing on its own responsibility more than 500 feet high, from which the postoffice, hotel, &c., derives their names. While this rock is a curiosity as it stands thus isolated, as its name would indicate, still the view from its base is grander still. It is a two hours tramp from the Chimney Rock Hotel to the base of this Rock, and none have ever made the journey that did not feel repaid. As we stand with heated brow and tired limbs and contemplate the surroundings, we acknowledge that few mountain views can surpass it. The Mountains across the river; "Round Top," and pinnacles stand as our "*vis a viz*" while the Sugar Loaf throws its benign shadow over us. The "Broad River" chained to the hills by the links of a thousand

brooks and rills, glides away like a silver serpent flashing in the sunlight down the valley on its way to the sea. On the same Mountain a little way to the West, the stream known as Fall Creek rises, murmurs along for half a mile, turns the wheel of a little mill, and then plunges headlong, a distance of 1300 feet down the face of the rock and then throws itself playfully into the current of the river. The Hickory Nut Road leading from Asheville to Rutherfordton, and also the Hendersonville road leads the traveler down this romantic gorge. Traveling East the mountains already mentioned stand on the right, while on the left stand Round Top with its "Vance's nose" projection, (named in honor of our U. S. Senator.) The noted Harris' view or Pinnacle from which may be seen several towns in adjoining counties and affording the finest of sun-rise and sun-set views, Bat Cave with its swift cold breath, Bald Mountain with its shaking propensities and volcanic reputation, and its cave in the rocks and fissures in its sides, all add their quota of interest to the charms of this landscape.

These are the leading features of our scenery, but there is many a vine clad nook and cosy glen, through which flows a little rivulet down some miniature precipice, where the mosses and ferns never fade nor grow sere. These springs and brooks are not only things of beauty; many of them possess medicinal qualities unsurpassed by the most noted springs in the world.

Two miles from the Chimney Rock Hotel, once owned by Washington Harris, now dead, the mention of whose name will awake pleasant memories in the minds of many a weary traveler and hunter who have tried his hospitality, and now owned by Judge G. W. Logan, is an Alum Spring, where the twigs and pebbles by its current collect lumps of solid Alum.

Within one-half mile of the Hickory Nut Road and the same distance from the Chimney Rock Hotel, is the "Spicer Spring," which for pure, sweet, and delightful *free stone* water is unsurpassed.

North-west of Rutherfordton four miles is Lewis' Spring, strong Sulphur water, and possessing all the qualities of more noted springs of the same character. Near Rutherfordton are two Chalybeate Springs—one even inside the corporation—where the inhabitants have easy access to it, and many of them as well as many strangers have derived material benefit from the use of the water. Upon the ground is a beautiful site for a hotel. The water has been analyzed by the State Geologist, and is said to contain some of the finest medicinal properties. This spring is owned by Mr. T. B. Justice, of Rutherfordton, and no charge is made for the use of the water.

Ten miles South-east of the village in Sulphur Springs Township is a strong Sulphur Spring, the property of Mr. Henson. Several persons who have tried its water have received permanent benefit therefrom. So it will be seen that the beautiful is also combined with the beneficial.

To L. P. Erwin, R. J. Balfour, M. H. Justice, Committee:

Previous engagements prevent compliance *in extenso* with your courteous request to make a statement of "what I know about" Rutherford County. I take it you would like to hear from me because I am "from the North."

I arrived in Rutherfordton 18th of October, 1851, from Lyme, N. H., was then a young man fresh from college. My main reasons for coming South were to escape the consequences of the cold climate of the North upon a constitution with decided tendencies to rheumatism and by no means safe from consumptive troubles there. The move was in these particulars a great success. Neither of those dreadful maladies has given me the slightest trouble since my arrival here 35 years ago.

I firmly believe there is not a spot of territory on the face of the earth, of the same size of Rutherford County, that excels it in healthfulness of climate.

As to soil, natural resources, elements for the development of a rich and prosperous and thickly settled communi-

ty, nothing can be said that will exaggerate the actual facts. For an intelligent, law abiding, generous, kind-hearted people, Rutherford County is not excelled.

Men of means looking for a desirable home—men of education—men dependent on their daily labor—every class of people who come to make up a population of good citizens will be most cordially received in every part of Rutherford County.

Very respectfully,

L. F. CHURCHILL.

LETTER FROM W. L. TWITTY, Esq.

Rutherford County embracing both the mountain and piedmont sections, owing to its peculiar physical formation is noted for its healthfulness and mildness of climate and under the impulse of capital would soon be marked for its distribution of labor and yield a generous return for all the money expended in the improvement of its fertile soil and magnificent water power. It would be safe to say that the water power of this county is ample to duplicate all the factories now running in the State and the surplus products of its farms sufficient for the sustenance of their operatives. This section is divided by its various mountain ranges into two semicircles tangent to each other on the South Mountain range each having an Eastern and South-eastern exposure and each being protected on its Western and North-western boundaries by outlying ranges. The first semicircle is formed by the spurs of the Blue Ridge and separated from it on the Western boundary only by the Reedy Patch and upper Broad River and capped by the peaks of Sugar Loaf and Bald Mountains and from 3600 to 4000 feet above the level of the sea through which Broad River cuts its channel. This range from its height intercepts the Eastern currents bearing moisture and condensing them and thus rendering protracted droughts, (such as are felt in many other sections) improbable if not

impossible. At this point the turn of the range is parallel to the axis of the Blue Ridge, (that is a little East of North) extending up to the range dividing the head waters of Cedar Creek in the County from those of Crooked Creek in McDowell County, thence the watershed extends in an Easterly course to the South Mountains and thence a South-eastern direction to its terminus in the Flint Hills. The tangential point of the second semicircle with the first is on the South Mountains and the general turn of the range is nearly North to the head of First Broad and thence Easterly to the Cleveland line. These sections are again subdivided into the watershed of the First, Second and Main Broad Rivers. The Main Broad River basin extends from the South Carolina and Polk County lines to Forest City and the lines of railway one and a quarter miles North of Rutherfordton, thence along the dividing ridge of Mountain and Cathey's Creeks to the Northern boundary of the first semicircle. In this basin are three entire Townships containing ninety square miles, and four-fifths of four others with an aggregate area of one hundred and thirty-one square miles. In this first section is the justly admired scenery around Chimney Rock. The bold outline and grandure of which is rarely equalled and not surpassed by any in the South. The pools, three successive chasms, at the foot of as many cascades, worn by the action of the water upon the stratified rocks through successive ages. Their depths are variously estimated from thirty to sixty feet and their diameters are from ten feet in the upper to fifteen or twenty feet in the lower pool.

Chimney Rock two hundred and fifty feet high and one hundred and fifty feet in diameter at its base is a segment of the cliff of Sugar Loaf severed from it by some violent force of nature and rounded by the action of the winds presents to the eye almost a perfect chimney, separated from the Mountain by a distance of only a few rods. The water capping over the falls of Sugar Loaf thirteen hundred feet and partially dissolving into mist and spray are some of the attractions of this delightful mountain pass. Another peculiarity

of this section together with the two others are the dewless and, consequently in the winter, frostless belts found in the coves along the Eastern slopes of the Mountains. These belts seem designed by nature as the habitat of the peach and grape; both attain their greatest perfection here. Wild summer grapes hang upon the vine until midwinter without losing their flavors or wine producing properties. I have known them gathered late in December and made into wine. Peaches grown upon these belts are far superior in flavor to those in the flat woods and the fruit grower can rely with confidence upon a good yield almost every year, the average loss being only one crop in fifteen or twenty. Why this stratum of dry air hangs upon our mountain sides is a question awaiting solution by scientists. The soil of this section varies from the black loam, the alluvial, the red, to the gray silicious. The black loam found in the mountain, not only richly reward the labor of their owners but are the benefactors of the denizens of the low lands, for the waters percolating through them and streams running thence carry in solution the alluvium; thus renovating our bottom lands so heavily taxed by the one crop system of the country. These lands produce corn equal to our fine bottom lands, and grass, Irish potatoes, &c., much better. They also yield large crops or the heavy qualities of tobacco. Next in succession comes the gray, silicious soil which forms a belt extending to within eight or nine miles of Rutherfordton (most of it) and thence from the Hickory Nut Road to within a mile of the Polk line on the South, the two qualities of red clay soil predominate. These soils differ in the amount of silica in their composition. In the one the plowshare will clear itself and in the other it will not. They are both productive and lasting soil. They produce cotton, corn, wheat, tobacco, &c., well. In response to a query put to one of our best and most intelligent farmers I received the following reply: "I have never yet found anything that they are not good for." This non-silicious red land is of the same quality as the celebrated black lands of Texas, and the yellow clay lands of Mecklen-

burg, of which a citizen of that county said to me "that a hundred years of culture would not exhaust them. North of the Hickory Nut Road the gray soil is the prevailing one to a point North or North-east of Rutherfordton. These red lands extend to Gleghorn Creek at the Seoggin place and thence South to the Polk County line. On both sides of Main Broad River this belt extends with an average width of one and a half to two miles to Mr. Wm. Harris' on Floyd's Creek. From Floyd's Creek East the uplands are nearly all gray, and from Gleghorn Creek East they are with the base of the same quality. This gray silicious soil is fine for cotton and fine yellow tobacco. It is a generous soil and rewards the laborer well. The most valuable lands in this County is the rich alluvial lands on our watercourses. Where the hills jet in forming water breaks to the overflowing streams thus causing the deposition of alluvium, these lands are practically exhaustless. Some have been worked from fifty to sixty years in succession without change of crop and without apparent depreciation of the soil. All of our bottom lands are, however, not equally fertile, many of them form drifts, &c., in the streams giving the currents force or bore causing them to raise the sands from their channels and deposit them on original soil, are more or less injured but in most cases this could be remedied by proper management and culture. What is said of the different kinds of soil of this section is equally applicable to the other two sections. The waterpowers of this section is as follows: On Broad River, the narrows in (Chimney Rock Township,) shoal at Poores Ford, and Bey Island (Sulphur Springs Township) and Beech Shoal in (High Shoal Township.) This stream offers from 50 to 100 per cent. more water than Pacolat on which are located the factories of Clifton and Trough Shoal on Mountain Creek three water powers, on Cove Creek three fine shoals, on Cedar Creek two fine powers, on Bill's Creek two good powers, on Charlie's Creek waterpowers, on Horse Creek, South of Island Ford two, McKinny's Creek one, Henson's Creek one, Shephard's Creek two. In sections

second the lands are gray selicious to a point nearly North of Rutherfordton on the Eastern portion of Camp Creek Township extending thence to Robinson's Creek, from that point to the Cleveland line the soil is gray. The waterpowers of this section are the following: On Second Broad are fine water powers, at Nabor's, at Bostic's, near Forest City and below Forest City on the same stream is the Burnt Factory Shoal, a very fine power, and a few miles further down the river is High Shoals and Tumbling Shoals, two of the finest powers in the State for the size of the stream and either one of which is sufficient to run as many spindles as Clifton's Factory. The powers at Nabor's and Bostic's are equal to Burnt Factory, also fine. There are three good powers on Camp Creek and two good powers on Cathey's Creek, on Robertson's Creek is a very fine power, at Andrew's Mills and very good power at Bostic's. The third section and the second semicircle are identical. The uplands are gray. The water powers of this section are the shoals of Yelton, Painter, McCurry, and Whisnant on first Broad River. The minerals of these three sections overlap each other and hence will be given together. In the Eastern part of the county extending from above Forest City to near the Cleveland line are extensive beds of oar of red oxide of iron in the central portion of the County is found magnetic and spoltic iron, though as yet in small quantities, and in the upper portion of the County on Cathey's and Cove Creek are found gray iron ore. That on Cove Creek is in large quantities. Near McDowell's and Anderson's Shoals two of the finest unimproved waterpowers in the County. Gold is found on Richardson's Creek and South of Main Rroad River (in Uuion and Green Hill Townships,) at the head of Cathey's Creek, at Jamestown, (at one time the most noted places or deposit Mines in the State, from this and the Bracket and Brindletown Mines more than one million of dollars worth of gold is said to have been taken) at the head of first Broad River, four miles North of Rutherfordton, on Cove Creek, and other sections of the County—

Malichite at Cooper's Gap, Lead on Cove Creek, Manganese in large quantities South of Main Broad River, and on Bill's Creek Corundum in the Jaemstown Mountains, Asbestos in Logan Store Township, Metamorphic rocks inclosing water on Dr. Harris' place, near Rutherfordton, Graphite in considerable quantities in the Southern portion of the county. Mica in large sheets at Morgan's and Allen's Mines, but stained by admixture of iron. No native silver ore has been found in the County, but it is found in connection with gold at the Shehmmels or Atkins Mine on Cane Creek. The gold assays only 60 cents a pennyweight on account of the silver mixed with it. A mine at the foot of Tryon in Polk county has the same per cent. of silver as the Atkins Mine. The Tryon Mine is South-west of the Atkins which is the general course of veins. Does this point to the discovery of a silver mine in our borders?

W. L. TWITTY.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL.

The three leading denominations are Methodist, twenty-two churches with a membership of some 1400, Presbyterians with three churches and a membership of 189, Baptist about twenty-five churches with a membership of some 3,500; also one Episcopal church in Rutherfordton, membership small.

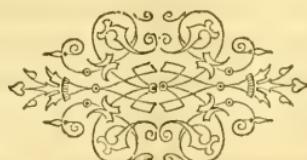
Most of these churches are in a very healthy, prosperous condition, and are developing very satisfactorily, being perhaps not less than one hundred per cent. in advance of where they were thirty years ago. In the two towns in the County, Rutherfordton and Forest City, a large majority of the citizens are members of some one of the above named denominations. In neither of these towns can any spirituous or malt liquors be sold legally, both having prohibitory laws. Most of the churches in the County have neat and comfortable houses of worship. At Rutherfordton the Methodist, Presbyterians and Baptist have built new houses within the last few years, all of which are neatly finished

and furnished. At Forest City, a neat little town, six miles East of Rutherfordton, both the Baptist and Methodist are arranging to build new houses.

The morals of the County will compare favorably with those of any County in the State, there being as little drunkenness and as few dens of vice as are to be found in any County.

The denominations in the County are as free from all contentions and strife as they are anywhere, each one recognizing the right of others to choose for themselves, and worship God according to their understanding of His word. In Rutherfordton, and so far as is known all over the county, there exists among the various pastors the most fraternal feelings and good will.

Taken altogether, while the religious and moral status is not all that could be desired, yet it will compare favorably with that in any county in the State, and is encouraging and hopeful.



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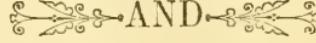
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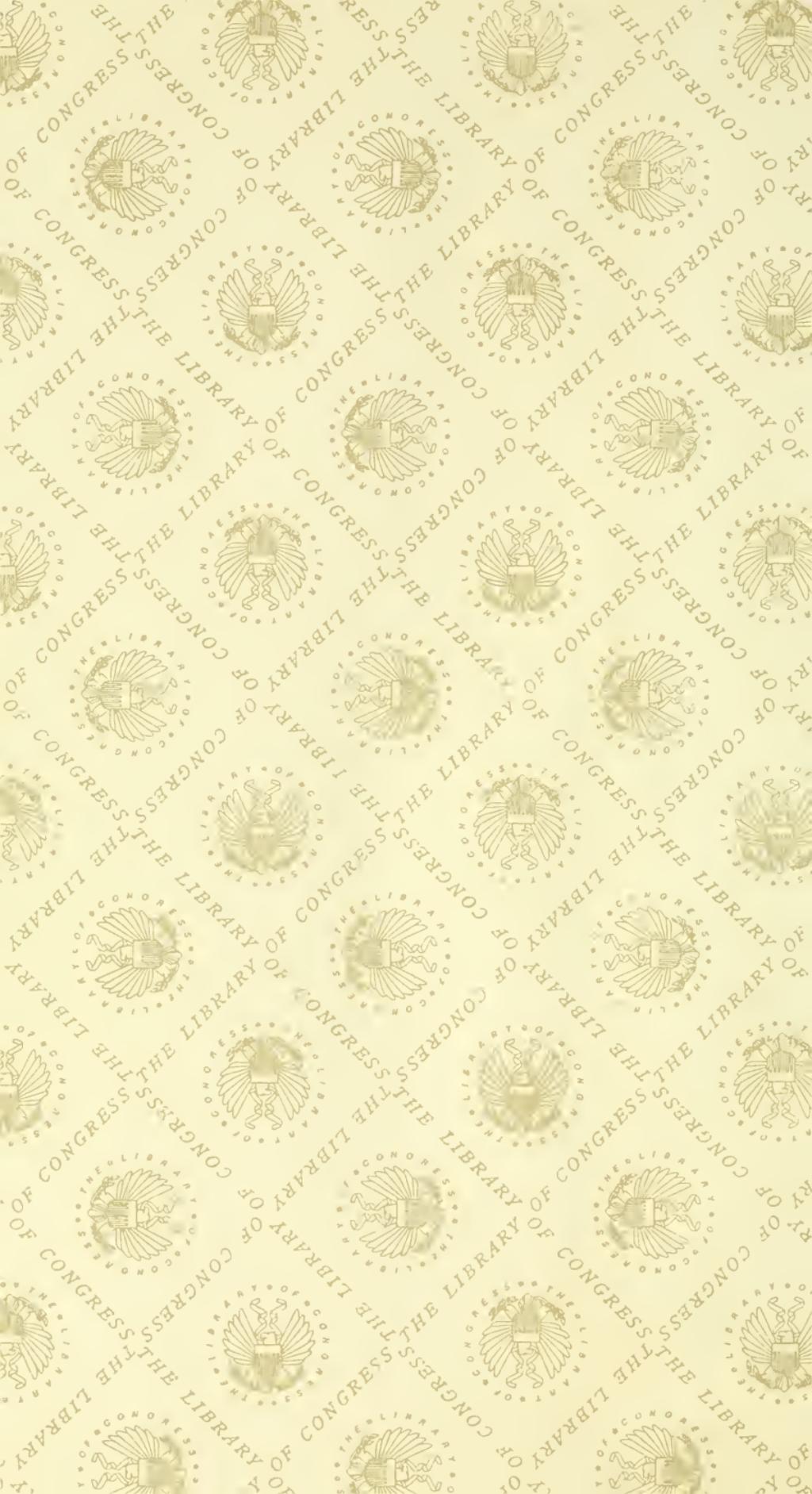
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